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2. (Once Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the proxy further includes means for translating between at least one of said first and second protocols and a third protocol comprising control data transmitted to control video-on-demand and different from said first and second protocols, wherein the same proxy can be used in different server/client environments.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the proxy includes means for ameliorating aberrant behavior in at least one of said server or client.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein the proxy includes means for detecting a predetermined input communication in an input protocol, and issuing an output communication in an output protocol that does not exactly correspond to the input communication.

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17. (Once Amended) In a video-on-demand system including plural clients receiving on-demand video originating from at least one video server, a proxy server computer interposed between the video server and the plural clients, the proxy server performing a method comprising:
assigning a first transmission channel to a first client to transmit an on-demand video thereto;
assigning a second transmission channel to a second client to transmit an on-demand video thereto;
instructing the video server to transmit on the first transmission channel;
instructing the first client to receive on the first transmission channel;
instructing the video server to transmit on the second transmission channel; and
instructing the second client to receive on the second transmission channel.

18. (Once Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the proxy server reassigns the first client to a third transmission channel at a point between the beginning and end of the first client's on-demand video, so as to manage channel resources.

19. (Once Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the clients and server employ different communication protocols, and the proxy server effects conversion between said protocols.

25. (New) In a video-on-demand system comprising plural video-on-demand clients requesting video programs according to a first video server control protocol, and a head-end serving video programs according to a second video server control protocol, interposing a proxy server computer between the head-end and the plural clients, the proxy server performing a method comprising:

from a client, receiving control data representing a video server control action in the first protocol;

translating the received control data into control data representing a video control action in the second control protocol; and

3 sending the translated control data to the head-end.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, further comprising plural video-on-demand clients requesting video programs according to the second video server control protocol and the method further comprises:

from a second client, receiving control data representing a video server control action in the second protocol; and

sending to the head-end, the control data received from the second client.

27. (New) The system of claim 25, further comprising a second video server at the head-end, wherein the second video server serves video programs according to the first video server control protocol, and the method further comprises:

from a second client, receiving control data representing a video server control action in the first protocol; and

sending to the second video server, the control data received from the second client.

28. (New) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for performing a method comprising:

receiving control data from a client requesting video programs according to a first video-on-demand server control protocol;

translating the received control data into control data representing a video control action in a second video-on-demand server control protocol; and

sending the translated control data to a head-end serving video-on-demand programs according to the second video-on-demand server control protocol.

29. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving control data from a second client requesting video programs according to the second video-on-demand server control protocol; and

sending the control data to the head-end serving video-on-demand programs according to the second video-on-demand server control protocol.

30. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving control data from a second client requesting video programs according to the first video-on-demand server control protocol; and

sending the control data to a second video server at the head-end, wherein the second video server serves video-on-demand programs according to the first video-on-demand server control protocol.

31. (New) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for performing a method comprising:

receiving from a first client, control data comprising on-demand video control;

assigning a first transmission channel to the first client;

sending to a head-end, control data comprising instructions to transmit on-demand video on the first transmission channel;

sending to the first client, control data comprising instructions to receive on-demand video on the first transmission channel;

receiving from a second client, control data comprising on-demand video control;

assigning a second transmission channel to the second client;

sending to the head-end, control data comprising instructions to transmit on-demand video on the second transmission channel; and

sending to the second client, control data comprising instructions to receive on-demand video on the second transmission channel.

32. (New) A method for assigning video-on-demand transmission channels to transmit on-demand video programming from a head-end to plural clients, the method performed by a proxy server computer receiving and sending control data, the method comprising:

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- receiving from a first client, control data comprising on-demand video control;
- assigning a first transmission channel to the first client;
- sending to the head-end, control data comprising instructions to transmit on-demand video on the first transmission channel;
- sending to the first client, control data comprising instructions to receive on-demand video on the first transmission channel;
- receiving from a second client, control data comprising on-demand video control;
- assigning a second transmission channel to the second client;
- sending to the head-end, control data comprising instructions to transmit on-demand video on the second transmission channel; and
- sending to the second client, control data comprising instructions to receive on-demand video on the second transmission channel.
